

# PUBLIC SERVICE TRUST FOR HEREFORDSHIRE

## PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY: CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE

CABINET

12TH APRIL, 2007

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### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

To enable the Council to take forward the proposal for a Public Service Trust for Herefordshire.

### Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision because the Council will not be in a position to take a decision until the process of public consultation is complete.

### Financial Considerations

The financial implications of the Public Service Trust are very significant and will need to be addressed separately, both in terms of the construction of a budget for any period of interim operation from 1st October, 2007 and for the first year of operation which will be the financial year 2008/09. Both the Council and Herefordshire NHS Primary Care Trust have recognised the need to undertake the usual due diligence enquiries though independent or external auditors before proceeding with the Public Service Trust proposal.

### Recommendation

**THAT in order to maintain the time table which will be proposed to the Herefordshire Public Service Trust Project Steering Group (Steering Group) on 16th April, 2007 authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and/or the Leader of the Council to enable them to give effect, if necessary, to any resolution of the Steering Group in relation to the timing of public consultation and the timing of the placing of an advertisement for the post of Chief Executive of the Public Service Trust.**

### Reasons

To establish authority for a process of joint public consultation and the commencement of the recruitment exercise for a Chief Executive

### Considerations

1. Cabinet approved in principle the proposals for the establishment of a Public Service Trust for Herefordshire at its meeting on 26th October, 2006 and that decision was the subject of a report to Council on 3rd November, 2006. That report covered the proposals for establishing a joint Management Team operating under a joint Chief

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
N.M. Pringle, Chief Executive, on (01432) 260044

Executive and also established the principle of public consultation on the proposals.

2. The time table which will be considered by the Steering Group on 16th April, 2007 will propose that a process of public consultation commences as soon as possible but after the local elections due to be held on 3rd May, 2007. The report to the Steering Group will also propose a time table for the commencement of the recruitment process for a Chief Executive.
3. Because of the intervening local Council election, there will be a period when the Council is unable to give effect to the time table established by the Steering Group through the normal delegations to Cabinet and Cabinet Members. It is important to note that Cabinet will not be re-appointed until 25th May, 2007. The recommended delegation will, therefore, enable effect to be given to any decision of the Steering Group should such a decision be required in the intervening period. The Leader of the Council will be able to give effect to that decision acting under existing delegated powers until the date of the May election and thereafter the Chief Executive will be able to give effect to that decision, if required, up to and including the Council meeting on 25th May, 2007.
4. The decision relates to the time table only and not to the principle of whether to consult or whether to make a joint appointment to which approval has already been given.

## **Risk Management**

The risk remains as set out in the previous report to Cabinet, namely that the formation of the Public Service Trust represents the best safeguard currently against the risk of loss of local Herefordshire decision-making and accountability on health matters.

It is also important to recognise the need for appropriate joint project planning and management to ensure that the initial proposals for formation of the Public Service Trust and the proposals shortly to be considered by the Steering Group are carried out in a way that minimises the risk to the stability of health and local authority functions across the County.

## **Alternative Options**

There are no practical alternative options.

## **Consultees**

Part of the decision which is to be delegated is to enable a full public consultation to take place.

## **Appendices**

None

## **Background Papers**

None identified.